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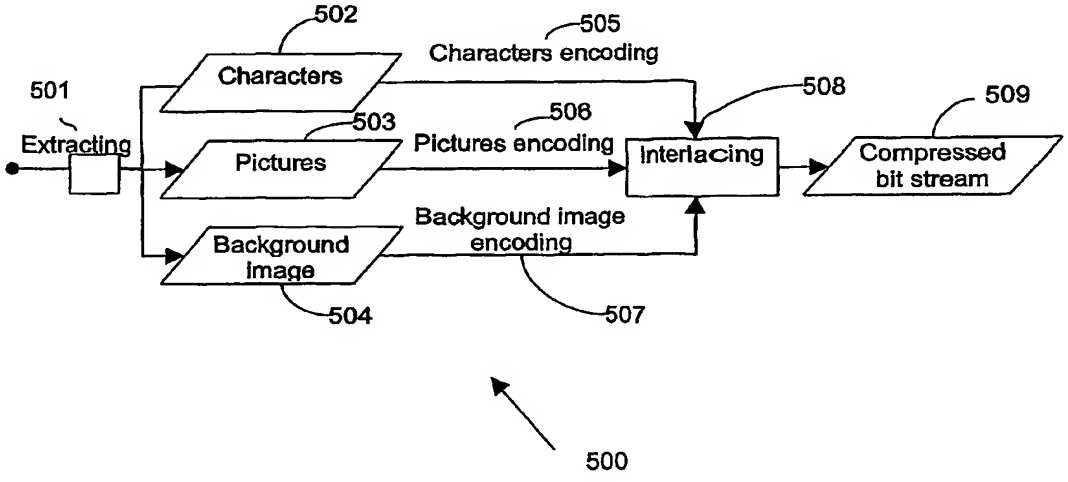
*[Continued on next page]*

(54) Title: DOCUMENT IMAGE ENCODING/DECODING




(57) Abstract: A method of encoding a document image, the method comprising extracting one or more picture areas from the document image; extracting one or more character areas from the document image; obtaining a background image by subtracting the image and character areas from the document image; classifying character blocks of the character areas with reference to dynamically generated templates; and encoding the background image utilising a SAQ wavelet encoder.

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